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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

August 1, 2012

TO: Internal File

THRU: Priscilla Burton, Lead

FROM: James Owen, Engineer

RE: North Lease Permit Modification, Canyon Fuel Company, Skyline Mine,
C/007/0005, Task #4092

SUMMARY:

On May 2, 2012, the Utah Division of Oil Gas & Mining received an application for an amendment to the Mining & Reclamation Plan (MRP) of the Skyline mine. The application seeks approval to extend the Skyline Mine North Lease area approximately 770.52 acres. The amendment is considered a significant revision.

This memo addresses the application's compliance with the engineering (R645-301-500) section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules.

Contents and information provided are not sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules. The following deficiencies were identified:

R645-301.525.440 The applicant must include the locations of projected subsidence monitoring stations on Plate 4.17.3-1A.

R645-301.525.100 Please update Plate 4.17.3-1A to include the location of the jeep trail.

R645-301.512.100 As a condition of final approval, plates must be properly certified.

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TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

OPERATION PLAN

SUBSIDENCE CONTROL PLAN

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR 784.20, 817.121, 817.122; R645-301-521, -301-525, -301-724.

Analysis:

Plate 4.17.3-1A depicts north lease pre-subsidence survey information. The map identifies areas where surface cracking and damage may occur. Also included are potential subsidence contours. The pre-subsidence survey detail overlays the mining projections map. No locations are provided for planned subsidence monitoring stations or monuments.

The application states that there is a short jeep trail on the western portion of panel 14-Left where there is an estimated subsidence in the range of approximately 2 feet. The subsidence should not impact the trail, but it will be monitored for any necessary repairs.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are not sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules. The following deficiencies were identified:

R645-301.525.440 The applicant must include the locations of projected subsidence monitoring stations on Plate 4.17.3-1A.

ROAD SYSTEMS AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.24, 817.150, 817.151; R645-301-521, -301-527, -301-534, -301-732.

Analysis:

The application states that there is a short jeep trail on the western portion of panel 14-Left where there is an estimated subsidence in the range of approximately 2 feet. The subsidence should not impact the trail, but it will be monitored for any necessary repairs.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are not sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules. The following deficiencies were identified:

R645-301.525.100 Please update Plate 4.17.3-1A to include the location of the jeep trail.

MAPS, PLANS, AND CROSS SECTIONS OF MINING OPERATIONS

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 784.23; R645-301-512, -301-521, -301-542, -301-632, -301-731, -302-323.

Analysis:

Plate 3.3-2 shows Mine No. 3 (Lower O'Connor "A" and Flat Canyon Seams). The timing and sequence of mining of any or all seams is dependent upon mining conditions. North Lease modifications are located on Plate 3.3-2. The application states that certified plates will be supplied upon final approval of the application.

Findings:

Contents and information provided are not sufficient enough to meet the minimum requirements of this section of the Utah Coal Mining Rules. The following deficiencies were identified:

R645-301.512.100 As a condition of final approval, plates must be properly certified.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval will not be recommended until deficiencies are addressed.